Edible Oils: Imported edible oils supplied through the PDS have to conform to the standard of quality laid down under FFA. Authorities concerned, including the State Governments, have been advised to take action so as to ensure conformity of the oils to the quality standards laid down.

Sale of adulterated groundnut oil

699. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 90 per cent filtered groundnut oil sold in the loose form at retail outlets is normally adulterated;

(b) whether it is a fact that the groundnut oil is mostly adulterated with Castor oil and in some cases with cottonseed oil; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure avilability of groundnut oil free from adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) As per News Item published in the *Times of India* dated 20th September 1991, sample surveys conducted at the instance of NDDB indicate that filterated groundnut oil sold in loose from retail outlet is normally adulterated. Adulterants were castor oil/cottonseed oil.

(c) State Governments have been issued instructions to take action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act so as to prevent adulteration of edible oils including groundnut oil.

Revamping of P. D. S.

700. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
DR. ABRAR AHMAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether any deadline has been fixed to revamp the Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) if so, by when the Public Distribution System would be revamped throughout the country; and to what extent the people residing in remote areas will get articles through PDS;

(c) what are the measures included in the revamping of Public Distribution System and the progress made in different states; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to close down fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The streamlining and strengthening of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country is a continual process.

The Central Government has in consultation with the State Govts. and UT Administrations identified, for special focus, the areas covered by Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP). The State Governments and UT Administrations have been requested to cover all the people living in these identified areas by issue of ration cards, strengthen delivery systems, open additional fair price shops and set up additional storage capacity, wherever necessary. About 1700 Blocks have been identified for this purpose.

(d) Setting up of Fair Price Shops is done by the State Govts./UT Administrations. There is, however, no policy of the Central Government for closing fair price shops.

Demands of Veterans (World War II) Co-ordinating Council

701. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Veterans (World War II) Coordinating Cell called on the Defence Minister on November

12, 1991 and submitted a memorandum regarding their demands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Memorandum dated 10 November 1991 has been received in the Ministry of Defence from the Veterans (World II) Coordinating Cell requesting for grant of pension to World War II Retrenchees. Since the World War II Retrenchees were engaged for short periods ranging from 2—6 years and did not have the requisite qualifying service for pension, they are not eligible for pension. Several States have, however, instituted schemes for grant of old-age pension to the needy persons. These schemes cover the World War II Veterans also. In addition, requests of such veterans for grant of financial assistance from Welfare Funds at the disposal of Ministry of Defence/Services Headquarters are also sympathetically considered.

One rank-one pension of ex-servicemen

702. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 330 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have accepted the principle of one rank-one pension for the armed forces pensioners;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) what is the financial implication of the scheme; and

(d) whether Government have ensured betterment of lowest paid pensioner under the scheme and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted a High Level Empowered Committee to comprehensively review the difficulties faced by pre-1.1.86. Defence Pensioners and *interalia*, examine the demand for 'One Rank-One Pension'. The Committee is required to submit its report by 31.12.91.

The Government is fully seized of the problems faced by the lowest paid pensioners. It has been Govt's constant endeavour to better the lot of the lowest paid segments of Govt. employees/ pensioners.

Realisation of Government Funds by Cantonment Boards under Central Command

703. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Cantonment Boards under the Central Command have been neglecting realisation of Government dues from various sections of the society within the limits of such Cantonments;

(b) whether the Director of Defence States have received several representations including legal notices on such failures of concerned Boards pertaining to assessment of house-taxes, realisation of correctly assessed STR on leases and consequent failures in the matters of services and insanitation etc., during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. Cantonment Boards are not responsible for collection of Government dues.

(b) to (d) Director General, Defence Estates has received a complaint dated 20-11-1991 from one Shri Ram Babu Misra, Advocate, Kanpur, addressed to Director Defence Estates, Central Com-